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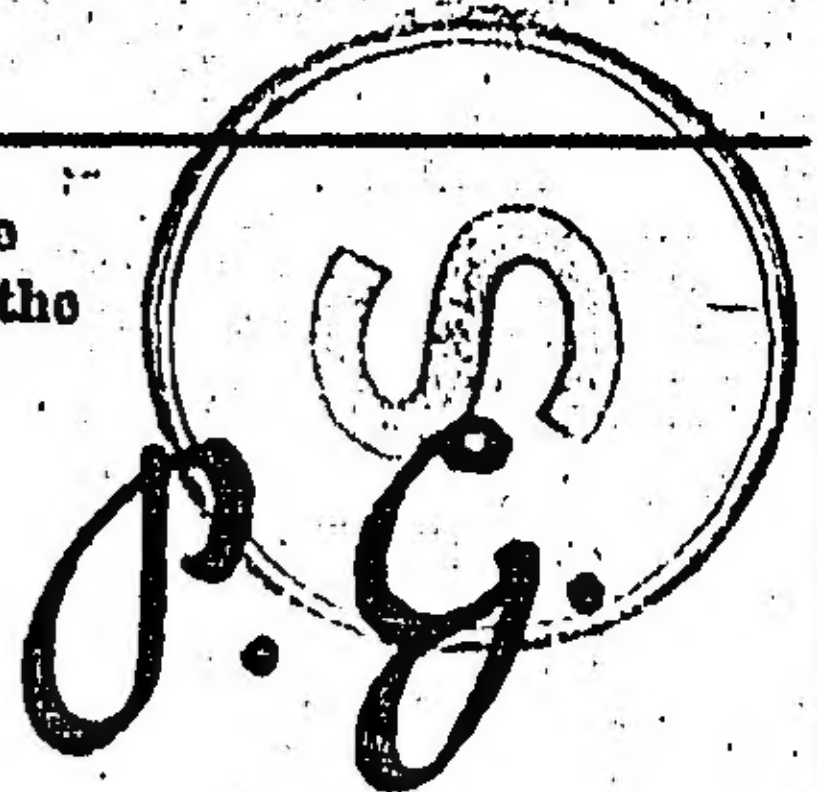
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Western Germany May Be Unified

Boy Shoots His Sister

"SHE WAS ALWAYS
NAGGING ME"

Las Animas, Colorado, Dec. 16.—Twelve-year-old Jimmy Melton confessed he killed his 16-year-old sister, Marie, with a .22 calibre rifle as she sat in the holly and mistletoe decorated living room because "I did not like her. She was always nagging me."

He said he played truant from school to go to the hardware store where his father worked and reported two men broke into the house and shot her after slugging him. He changed his story after six hours of questioning.

He said: "I sneaked into the bedroom and got the rifle. Then I opened the door a crack and saw Marie sitting on the couch. She did not notice me as I poked the rifle through the doorway. The first shot hit her in the shoulder and she fell down. Then I ran into the room and fired four more shots that hit her in the face and chest."—United Press.

SEEKS JAPAN AIR SERVICE

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—Pan American World Airways announced it has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission to operate a domestic air service in Japan.

The proposed service would connect the main islands of Japan. It would link with Pan American's world route which serves Tokyo on the service from San Francisco to Calcutta. The proposed Japanese domestic service would branch out from Tokyo.

To the north it would link Tokyo, Sendai and Hachinohe, with Hokkaido Island. The terminal would be at Chitose. A southern route would connect Honshu Island with Kyushu by way of Nagoya, Osaka and other points. The terminal would be Kanoya. Additional proposed routes on Honshu would serve Niigata and Kanazawa.—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

Soviet Currency Reform

IN a world bloated from inflated currencies, Soviet Russia's devaluation of the rouble is of profound significance and carries with it something of a challenge. A variety of constructions can be placed on this reform, the majority of which would, in part, represent the cause and the anticipated effects of the measure. Unquestionably Russia is seriously burdened with inflation, and this dramatic devaluation is intended to go some way towards relieving the situation. It is also fairly plain that the Soviet authorities have become concerned over extensive black market operations (known as the "commercial price") and are seeking to eliminate these activities. Thirdly, the reform appears to be aimed at stabilising prices at such a level that the workers can hope for lower living costs. Whether the decrees will succeed in their designs is a question unanswerable at this stage. The fact that the Kremlin can impose them without giving a thought to international financial reactions is indicative of the unique position in which Russia has placed herself: it is, for example, unthinkable of Britain devaluing the pound sterling without parallel or compensatory action being taken by other nations who are partners in international finance. An one commentator has observed, the Soviet Union has actually repudiated its own currency, and in such an arbitrary manner as to be without prece-

TENTATIVE PLANS Three-Zone Merger Proposed

London, Dec. 16.—The United States, Britain and France worked on tentative plans for economic consolidation of Western Germany preparatory to exploratory conversations on Tuesday night. French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault said he would accept a merger with the three zones provided it is profitable to France.

High diplomatic informed sources said that the American Secretary of State, George C. Marshall, will begin with French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault tonight the first of a series of western power talks on the unification of western Germany.

The informed sources said that Mr Marshall set his staff of German advisers to work early to-day drafting proposals which he might tentatively advance to the Frenchman for the merger of the French zone with the Anglo-American zones, now that the four-power organisation of all Germany has been ruled out, for the immediate future at least, by the breakdown of the Big Four talks here.

M. Bidault at a news conference said "there will be conversations to see where we stand on western Germany in the near future. This is only one aspect of the entire German question," the French official said. "But we (the three western powers) must find some way of settling along."

The American delegation held a special meeting to discuss problems arising from the collapse of the Big Four conference.

Russian Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov and his aides departed for home. Deputies of the four foreign ministers scheduled a meeting for tomorrow to begin what may be their last joint effort to write a treaty for Austrian peace and independence, official American informed sources said.—Associated Press.

REPORT ON BREAKDOWN

Washington, December 16.—President Truman has received a full report from Mr Marshall, Secretary of State, on the breakdown of the London Foreign Ministers' conference, the White House disclosed tonight.

President Truman's press secretary said that the President has been in contact by cable with Mr Marshall.

He declined to give the President's opinion to the breakdown.

Mr Marshall plans to broadcast a report to the United States on Friday night on the failure of the "Big Four" foreign ministers' conference.

Mr Marshall was expected to arrive home from London on Friday in President Truman's plane.—Reuters.

LEAVING DOOR OPEN

London, Dec. 16.—The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, today held out hopes of continued Big Four co-operation as speculation in London ran high about the Great Powers' next moves to fill the vacuum in world affairs created by last night's collapse of the Foreign Ministers' conference.

Speaking at a press conference here—first of the four leading participants to comment on the new situation—Mr Bidault said: "My impression—and I stress the fact that it is my impression—is that it is my desire to leave the door open for all possible attempts at an overall settlement."

M. Bidault was replying to the question of whether the three western powers should now proceed to a settlement without Russia. Asked if there would be another session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Mr Bidault said: "No date has been fixed but the institution exists for always and this is one of the good things one can find in the Potsdam Agreement."

No plans had been made for talks between the British Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, the Secretary of State, Mr George Marshall and M. Bidault before the departure of the two visitors expected within the next 48 hours, it was stated.

Despite these official declarations, usually well-informed quarters in London believed that the three Ministers may meet tomorrow to make immediate decisions on the future of Western Germany, writes Reuters's Diplomatic Correspondent.

MERGER POSSIBLE

Asked whether France will join the other two western zones, M. Bidault said today that a merger was possible but not inevitable or imperative.

"There may be a merger which is profitable for France and one which is not. I will choose the profitable one," he declared.

The treaty, between the three western powers for the disarmament of Germany had not yet been discussed, he said, but such a long-term guarantee was of major importance to France.

M. Bidault listed four other guarantees which France hoped for—the economic detachment of the Saar, a federal regime for Germany, a special regime for the Rhineland, and the international control of the Ruhr.

Authoritative London quarters tonight made it clear that the collapse of the conference will in no way affect the impending trade agreement between Britain and Russia, Reuters's Political Correspondent wrote.

This is regarded as purely a commercial agreement not affected by political issues, it was stated. The collapse of the conference will probably be discussed by the British Cabinet at its next meeting on Thursday. The Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, was expected to make a statement on the subject in the House of Commons before Parliament adjourns for Christmas recess.—Reuters.

Chinese Ship In Distress

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—The Globe Wireless today said that its Manila station heard a distress message from an unidentified Chinese ship saying it needed "immediate assistance" after running aground on Yoron Jima in the Ryukyu Islands.

The ship, identified only by its call letters, said the engine room was flooded.

The steamship Nippon Maru reported it was en route to the scene but it would be ten hours before it could arrive. The distressed vessel asked any closer ships to give assistance.—United Press.

Indonesian Allegation Of Dutch Threat

SUSPICIOUS ATMOSPHERE FOR PEACE TALKS

Batavia, Dec. 16.—Sufficient Dutch troops were massing in forward positions in Java to constitute a threat to the Republican capital of Jogjakarta, Amir Sjarifuddin, the Indonesian Republican Prime Minister, declared today.

He was speaking on board the U.S. Navy transport Renville, the vessel on which the Dutch-Indonesian peace negotiations under United Nations mediation, are taking place, in Batavia harbour.

He was unable to say whether the presence of Dutch troops was meant as a threat to Jogjakarta, he added, but it certainly gave the impression that something might happen in the near future.

The Indonesian Prime Minister said that he agreed with an appeal for support made today by the Republican Socialist Party to Socialists throughout Asia.

A Netherlands East Indies Government spokesman later emphatically denied that there was any concentration of Dutch troops threatening Jogjakarta.

There was no question of any new Dutch move against the Republican capital, he said.

SHOTS AT DELEGATES

The Netherlands New Agency reported today from the West Java capital of Bandung that "extremists" had shot at delegates from the districts of Tasik Malaya and Tjiamas while they were on their way to the West Java Conference at which Indonesians, prepared to co-operate with the Dutch, were expected to seek a separate state or autonomous status for the 12,000,000 Sundanese people formerly in the Republic.

About 25 Indonesians, including some former members of the Republican Army, were temporarily arrested when they demonstrated outside the Conference hall.

Amir Sjarifuddin said that the Indonesian Republic would have to raise the West Java question with the Security Council's good offices committee if a new state was formed.

The Indonesian Prime Minister endorsed the remarks made earlier by Dr Mohamed Roem, the Republican Minister of the Interior, that the Republican Government would ask the United Nations to conduct a plebiscite in "Dutch-created Indonesian states" if the present conciliation efforts failed.

DUTCH ACCUSATION

Today's Dutch communiqué accused the Republican Government of trying to obstruct and retard the negotiations while strengthening its own economic position.

Members of the good offices commission considered that separate discussions with the Dutch and Indonesian delegations were proving the most fruitful way of settling (Continued on Page 4)

Committee Proposes Interim Aid Cuts

MISGIVINGS ABOUT PROGRAMME

Washington, Dec. 16.—The House Appropriations Committee today submitted to the House a bill which would cut US\$88,000,000 from the amount Congress authorized for emergency foreign aid and more than US\$260,000,000 from the Army's request for American-occupied areas.

The Committee offered a supplemental appropriation bill which (1) provides US\$500,000,000 stop-gap aid or 15 percent less than yesterday's authorization of relief for France, Italy, Austria and China; and (2) provides only US\$230,000,000 of the US\$400,000,000 requested by the Army for relief Military Government operations in Germany, Japan, Korea and Austria, or 53 percent less.

The Committee expressed misgivings about the soundness of the foreign relief programme.

The supplemental appropriation bill sent to the House today carried a total of US\$772,504,000, of which US\$500,000,000 was for emergency aid, US\$230,000,000 for the Army and the balance for other Federal operations.

NO PROVISION FOR CHINA

The Committee did not provide funds for aid to China in its bill, although such aid was authorized in the measure at present awaiting President Truman's signature. The Committee said it did not see fit to provide any money for Chinese aid on the grounds that no programme had been submitted for China.

As for aid to France, Italy and Austria, the Committee said, "While the Committee is far from convinced that the programme is sound or that it will be efficiently administered, it does recognise the need to be met and that the present bill offers the only opportunity to provide such assistance as the United States may be in a position to render and has therefore determined to approve the programme in its basic form with certain exceptions hereafter explained."

Of US\$88,000,000 reduction, US\$60,000,000 was taken from the amount intended for France and US\$28,000,000 from the amount intended for Italy.

The largest portion of the Military Government request was intended for food in the British Zone of Germany. Under the bilateral agreement, the United States and Britain were to bear equal costs of feeding the population in the two zones. But because of the status of the British finances, the Army asked for funds to take over the greater share of feeding in the British Zone.

"NOT SATISFIED"

The Committee allowed only US\$100,000,000 out of US\$287,000,000 requested for that purpose, saying it was "not satisfied from the facts developed that there is a proper basis for the appropriation of funds requested for taking over the cost of feeding in the British Zone of occupation to the extent requested."

The Committee contended that the cornerstone of economic recovery in Europe was a "stable monetary system." It said that unless the European governments made efforts toward stabilising their money systems, it would be impossible to achieve economic recovery.

It added, "No assistance of lasting benefit can be rendered and no permanent improvement in the economic condition of the peoples involved can be expected until the currency situation has been forthrightly met."

Millionaire Backing Air Expedition To W. China

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Milton Reynolds, millionaire aviation enthusiast, announced plans today for an air expedition into western China to search for an uncharted mountain range and to seek solutions to other scientific mysteries.

Reynolds, who sponsored two record-breaking round-the-world flights, said the expedition would be conducted jointly by his company and the Boston Museum of Science. It would consist of 10 scientists and 10 technicians and would leave Chicago before January 1.

The flight will be made in a specially constructed four-engined C-87 capable of cruising at 35,000 feet. William P. Odum, who piloted the plane on the global flight, will pilot on the expedition.

Final arrangements for the expedition were completed on Monday by Reynolds and Terrell Moore, President of the Boston Museum, and Bradford Washburn, world-famed explorer and director of the museum.

Soon We Shall Know What Happened

London, Dec. 16.—The Secretary of War, Mr Emanuel Shinwell, expects that British official war despatches relating to operations in the Far East during the earlier part of the war would start being published about the middle of January.

Those relating to the loss of Singapore and the Malay Peninsula should reach their turn for publication within the following four or five weeks, he added.

Mr Shinwell gave these facts in a reply to a question in the House of Commons today.—Reuters.

ARCHBISHOP REPUDIATES HIS DEAN

London, December 16.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, today issued a statement dissociating himself and the Church of England with the "actions and utterances" of 73-year old "Red" Dean of Canterbury, Dr Hewlett Johnson.

Dr Fisher declared that it was necessary because of the "widespread misunderstandings and misconceptions both on the continent and in the United States, liable to affect relations of the Church of England with foreign churches and countries," to make clear the position of Dr Johnson, well-known for his championing of the cause of Russia and her satellites.

"It has been supposed that the Dean of Canterbury must necessarily be acting on the instructions of the Archbishop of Canterbury and representing his views," Dr Fisher said.

REPEATS WARNING

"I find it necessary therefore to repeat the warning given by Archbishop Lang in 1937, when the Dean was publicly rebuked after he had viciously denounced the General Franco in a speech at Strasbourg."

"The Dean's office and jurisdiction in this country does not extend beyond the confines of the Cathedral body of which he is head. Outside of those limits, he speaks and acts only for himself; the Archbishop of Canterbury is neither responsible for what the Dean may say or do nor has the power to control it."

"In view of the special and worldwide associations which surround the name of Canterbury, it is necessary to make the position quite clear."

Last October, Dr Johnson returned from a nine week tour of eastern Europe to say that he was deeply impressed with the need to tell the people of Britain and the United States the truth about what was happening in those "splendid new worlds."—Reuters.

would search for the uncharted mountain range, reported by wartime "hump" pilots and would also attempt to discover:

Firstly, whether the Yellow River gorge is the greatest in the world; Secondly, the source of the Yellow River;

Thirdly, the geological origin of the uncharted mountain range;

Fourthly, whether the region was covered by ice during the ice age; Fifthly, the altitudes of the major peaks in the unexplored area that are believed to reach 14,000 to 25,000 feet.

Reynolds said the expedition would also attempt to photograph the mysterious Lake Kokonor from the air.

Besides Washburn, Reynolds and Odum, invitations to participate in the expedition have been sent to Prof. Walter McKay, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's department of aeronautics; Prof. Richard P. Goldsworthy, of the geology department of Ohio State University; and Mr. Grant Ross, technician from the Boston University optical research laboratory.

The expedition will be based at Chengtu, China, and is expected to cover approximately 50,000 miles.—United Press.

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7.20 & 9.30 p.m.SPENCER
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GREATEST
ROLE**"THE SEVENTH
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• **JESSICA TANDY**
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THE SECRET THAT MILLIONS KEPT!**RALPH RICHARDSON**

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"SPOTTED BUTTERFLY"

花 蝴蝶

A CHINESE PICTURE

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

Sitting on the Fence

by **NATHANIEL
GUBBINS**How To Endure Women is the
subject of the sermon today.
Later on, if you are good, you
may learn from this column
How To Endure Children and
How To Endure Dogs. But for
now it will be women.IN that part of the world
which is called civilised
there are only three places
where you can avoid women—
the club, the monastery, and
the grave.Even a bachelor, living in a
bachelor flat, has to put up with
the occasional visit of a char
who comes to tidy up and hide
everything he wants.Therefore you must make the best
of a woman-infested world during
what H. G. Wells believed to be its
last days.Although, by their odd behaviour,
they have forfeited all rights to pro-
tective gallantry, they still expect it.
Having divested themselves of the
graces peculiar to women they still
feel entitled to the small services
and courtesies which were once
tributes to the charms some of them
no longer possess.So what is happening? I'll tell
you.At one time evenings were set
aside for the entertainment of
women. They were known as
Ladies' Nights and you didn't mind,
for once, waiting on them and put-
ting yourself out to please them.Now, as women dominate almost
every social scene, wherever it is
held every night is a ladies' night.
And every morning or afternoon is
a ladies' morning or afternoon.
The result is that men who are
not members of clubs or are not
monks or dead men, spend most of
their leisure hours fumbling for
matches to light women's
cigarettes, giving up seats to them,
fussing over them and keeping the
conversation clean.And the result of this may be a
mass nervous breakdown among
the men of this so-called civilisation.

In the pub

THERE you are with a couple of
men friends drinking modestly
and happily.The landlord is leaning over the
counter joining in the talk. It is
not very clever talk, but it is easy
and full of laughter. You hand
round cigarettes when your turn
comes, the same as you buy a half-
pint round when your turn comes.You are not obliged to light any-
body's cigarette, but you do if you
happen to strike a match to light
your own. You can sit on a stool
or a chair without feeling obliged
to jump up for anybody.You are at peace. You are re-
laxed. The cares of the day are
forgotten.THERE is the sound of
women's voices, shrill and
squeaky. The landlord stiffens a
little. You wriggle on your stool.
Your friends stop talking and look
uneasily at each other.

The little party is over.

If the women are strangers it's
not so bad. Probably you have
only to give up your seat and keep
quiet.If there are a few women and
plenty of seats you have nothing
to do but keep your mouth shut
and listen.But if the women are known to
you and they bring in friends who
are introduced, then it would be
better if you made some excuse and
went home.Otherwise this is what will hap-
pen to you.
You will rise from your stool and
offer it to one of the women, even
if there are enough stools to go
round.It is not considered polite to sit
in the presence of these wonderful
superior beings.If she accepts the seat, which she
will do anyway, you can go and get
another. But the moment this
woman rises, or any of her friends
rise, you will have to rise too.The women, having accepted
drinks, will then fumble in their
handbags for cigarettes. At least
half of them won't have any, so
you will be obliged to provide those
also.This didn't matter much at one
time, but with the present price of
cigarettes it becomes a burden even
to the most generous of men.As it is an accepted thing that
women are too weak to strike
matches, and would never have
any of their own even if they
were strong enough to strike them,
you can now resign yourself to an
evening of watching the ends of
cigarettes to see if they are lit, or
have gone out, and leaping to
your feet every two or three
minutes with a match in your hand.Maybe your friends will share
these duties with you, but theycan't relieve you of the nervous an-
xiety.You are always on the watch to
see if they are doing the job and
they are always on the watch to
see if you are.So you are like a lot of jacks-in-
the-box jumping up and down and
trying to listen to conversation un-
til the merciful landlord throws
everybody out.THE most irritating aspect of this
most unhappy business is that
the women know they have spoiled
their evening and are glad they
have spoiled it.If you can't be happy paying
tribute (with matches and St
Vitus's dance) to their beauty,
charm and wit you have no right to
be happy at all.

At a party

YOU rather expect to be a match-
striking jack-in-the-box at a
party, however much you may re-
sent it in a pub.Homes and hotels were intended
for polite social intercourse be-
tween the sexes. Pubs were not.
Two world wars have made them
what they are today.At a party you will find you are
not only expected to light cigarettes
and jump up and down every time
a woman jumps up and down.You are also expected to feed
them with sandwiches and little
bits of things on toast. At hotel
parties they hire waiters to do it,
but women much prefer to see men
guests running about with trays,
tripping over rugs and banging in
to each other.This is regarded as a further
tribute to their wit, beauty and
charm, though only women can see
why.WHILE you are watching for un-
lighted cigarettes, watching to
see if any woman is standing,
watching to see if any sitting
woman is likely to stand, or going
out of the room so that you can
open the door for her; or while you
are watching to see if any woman's
glass is empty, or any woman wants
to put down an empty glass, or
stabs out a cigarette, or even while
you are watching to see if any
woman's jaws have stopped work-
ing on a sandwich so that you can
leap for a tray to get her another
you are also expected to know all
about the world situation and dis-
cuss it intelligently.You are supposed to know what
Stalin is up to, why Vyssinsky is so
rude to everybody, what Presi-
dent Truman thinks about it, and
what Mr Attlee is going to fire next.If you say, quite truthfully, that
you don't know anything about
these matters at all, you are either
regarded as a boor or as a spy in
the pay of a foreign Government
and therefore afraid to talk.AS women are also incapable of
getting cabs, of looking up
trains, and knowing when the last
bus leaves, quite apart from being
too weak to strike matches and
open doors, it is your job to run out
into the night and watch for cabs,
your job to telephone the station,
yours to know by telepathy about
the buses.And I hope you have had an en-
joyable evening.I SEE now that I haven't told you
how to endure women after all.
But if H. G. Wells was right you
won't have to endure them much
longer. That's the only consol-
ation I can offer.POCKET CARTOON
by OSBERT LANCASTER"Of course, the Lords are
out-dated now—why they
don't even get no salary."

BY THE WAY

by **Beachcomber**IN view of the startling suc-
cess of the nationalisation
of the mines, why not
nationalise schedules? Would
not this make it easier to Stag-
ger them?To settle this matter, a Fac-
toring Committee (free travel,
free food, free clothes, free enter-
tainment, all expenses paid) has
been appointed, and will report the
facts it has found not later than
August, 1950. Such has suggested
that in order to study things on
the spot, the Committee should begin
by making an extensive good will
tour of the Bahamas, Portugal,
South Africa and Chile. If it is
found that the time is not yet ripe
for Nationalisation of Schedules,
the Staggering will at once be put
to a vote, beginning with overall
priority personnel.

Cary Grant as Rubens

HOLLYWOOD is growing weary
of films about great artists and
musicians, partly because you
always have to have George Sand
in them. It is to be painters now.
But George Sand can't be flung off
as easily as that. I would like to
see her with Alan Ladd as Watteau,
or with Cary Cooper as Reynolds.
"Have, Maudie, Maudie, come in."
"Yes, now, Josh, mong share."
"Ge, my lady, I vow and
periest yew look swell...."

Why not freeze the pool?

THE announcement that a mis-
calculation has resulted in the mis-
laying of £35,000 in the con-
vertibility pool prompts me to ask
whether the famous 74,000,000 dol-
lars may not be included in that
sum, whatever it was earmarked
for, if earmarked it was, or not. It
is all very well to talk of £63,000,
000 worth of goods from the Argen-
tine, but what if they represent in-
creasing credits and drafts on
sterling debts? Forgive me for
speaking bluntly, but I simply don't
believe it. If the pool is pre-
maturely frozen, we shall be skat-
ing on very thin money.

Seascope

Dall's picture shows a horse and
five elephants all walking on stilts
and carrying a nude on a pedestal,
and a temple with a body bulging
out of the entrance.

(Morning paper).

It's Blackmail!

VINCENT EVANS

LONDON.
I AM sick to death of the
word "kroner." I have had
two months listening to the
Danes telling me what is wrong
with Britain, why I am a black-
mailor, and how wicked it is of
Mr Strachey not to pay the
prices they are asking us for
their dairy produce.Fantastic prices, Mr. Strachey called
them. And I agree with him.
They are prices we would pay in
the black market. Britain must pay
us these prices, I was told, or the
Danes will have to find markets
elsewhere.When I had listened I told the
Danes this: that, for six years,
Britain had fought a war which had
killed and maimed many thousands
of young men, cost millions of
pounds a day, and smashed our
homes and factories.

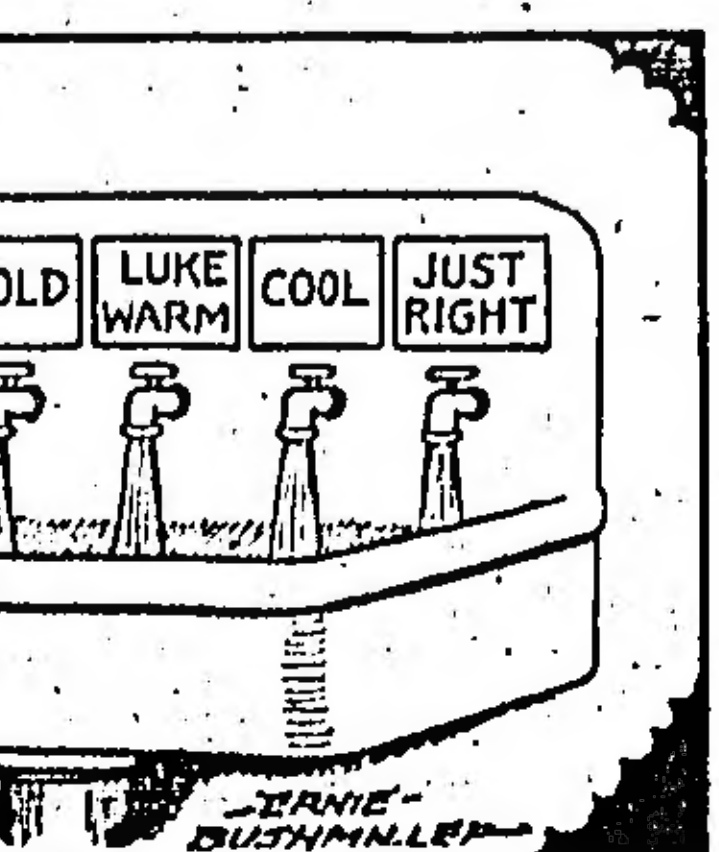
The Debt

I TOLD them, too, that all those
countries which had come
through the war pretty well un-
scathed, and which were now try-
ing to hitch themselves into a seat
on the freedom bandwagon which
they missed in 1940, had a debt of
honour to Britain.Yes, yes, said the Danes; that is all
true. We are grateful for the war
you fought. But your argument is
sentimental. It is not based on
economics. You cannot assess a
moral obligation in kroner. So
what do they do? They turn round
and offer us butter at 1s. a lb. more
than they pay in their own homes.And why do the Danes call me a
blackmailor? Because I told them
this: You are asking Britain to
pay you prices we cannot afford, and
which, in any case, are far higher
than those that Australia and New
Zealand are asking.One of the main reasons why two
normally friendly people are now
slanging each other is that the
Danes are quite hopelessly misin-
formed about conditions. For
instance, one evening while I was
talking at Aarhus University, an
officially sponsored British lecturer
in another part of the town was tell-
ing the Danes that the British
man-in-the-street was mystified why
we could not pay the prices the
Danes were asking.And Danish men and women, fed
on the comparative plenty of our
hotels, are now going back to Den-
mark with stories that there is no
food shortage in Britain. And yet,
with cheese, milk, and eggs un-
rationed, and a formality of ration-
ing on meat, they will tell you much
about their own privations.But this will tell you how serious
these "privations" really are: I went
into the Food Office at Slagelse andtold the food officer that my ration
cards had expired a couple of days
earlier. Could I have them renew-
ed?He was very sorry, but I couldn't.
They had run out of ration cards,
and I would have to come back in
two days' time, when he hoped I
would have some more. But how, I
protested, was I to go on in the mean-
time? "Oh," he replied, "you will
get along all right!"And so indeed I did. Yes, the
Danes are doing very nicely indeed.

The Warning

WHEN you tell the Danes that
their prices may result in their
losing the British market they say
blandly, "But the British Empire
will never be at its own game."
But there are, in fact, three points
to which the Danes are going to
have to pay a lot of attention pretty
soon, or they will be beaten at their
own game. They are these:—1 PRODUCTION COSTS: These
I have gone leaping up since the
war. Farm men's wages have risen
from £2 10s. to £6 10s. a week,
and quite rightly in a skilled indus-
try on which a country depends.2 COMPETITION: Competition in
Denmark has been kicked slap
into the sea by the big co-opera-
tives. Farmers have little incentive
to cut their prices.3 FEEDING-STUFFS: The Danes
complain that they are having
to pay expensive dollars for feeding-
stuffs which they used to get from
us. Quite true, but they also throw
away the green, beet tops, which
make fine feeding stuffs.The Danes will probably tell me
that their grandmother already
knew how to suck eggs. My only
comment is that I am delighted to
note that, as a result of the recent
agreement, we in Britain will have
a few million more chances of
learning the art.

NANCY A Brilliant Idea on Tap

By **Ernie Bushmiller**As Sm-o-o-o-oth
as black velvet!

Fitch's

NO BRUSH
SHAVE CREAMon sale at leading
StoresSOLE AGENTS **NAN KANG CO.** UNION BUILDING

Reprieve For Italy's Subs

Rome, Dec. 16.—Italy's fleet of submarines, which under the terms of the Italian peace treaty should have been sunk in the open sea by midnight, had an eleventh hour reprieve tonight.

The Italian Foreign Office announced this afternoon that it had been informed that the Big Four Governments had decided to grant Italy's claim for an amendment of Article 58 (C) of the peace treaty, under which all submarines afloat, except for eight to be handed over to the Big Four, were to be sunk within three months of the treaty coming into force.

Italy ended the war with 34 of the 130 submarines, with which she began, it was reported in 1945. Eighty-four were lost through Allied action—Reuter.

ARABS CUT JEWS' WATER PIPELINE

Jerusalem, Dec. 16.—Arabs cut a pipeline carrying water supplies to Jewish settlements in the Negev Desert, southern Palestine, in 30 places during the night, Haganah, the Jewish defence force, stated today.

Three Arabs were killed in a gun near the Yarkon bridge in Tel Aviv last night, the statement added.

A Jewish armed squad in a white jeep set fire to Arab houses on the border between Jewish Tel Aviv and Arab Jaffa today, police reports said.

The Jewish Civil Guard was today taking over security duties from British police forces in the mainly Jewish areas of Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan and Petah Tikvah.

Five Arab villages with a population of 5,000 in this area will thus come under Jewish police control.

A Reuter Cairo message today quoted a newspaper report that Nokrashy Pasha, the Egyptian Premier, had told his Cabinet of an Arab League decision not to put regular Arab forces into the Palestine "fight against Zionism."

The premier added that this attitude would be revised after the British withdrawal and in the light of the international situation then prevailing, according to the report.—Reuter.

Allegation Of Dutch Threat

(Continued from Page 1)

their dispute. The Netherlands News Agency reported "authoritatively," answering claims that the Dutch were bringing economic pressure against the Republic. The Netherlands Government communiqué said that a resumption of normal trade relations with the Republic was "out of the question" while it encouraged "terrorisation and intimidation."

It accused the Republicans of exporting goods—"at the expense of their rightful owners"—worth £17,500,000 to raise a fighting fund.

Making the Republican plebiscite demand, Dr. Roem said that his Government considered all the Dutch East Indies except the areas still controlled by the Republican Government, were undemocratic. The Republican would take a similar attitude, he added, if the Dutch formed a State of West Java at the request of the "United Indonesia" committee.

Reporting that the organisation of The Netherlands Army was today directed towards facilitating the despatch of troops to Indonesia, The Netherlands War Minister told the Lower House of Parliament at The Hague today that the strength of the troops of The Royal Netherlands Army in the East Indies would next year average about 84,200.

The War Minister disclosed that 716 men of The Royal Netherlands Army and The Royal Netherlands Indies Army were killed between October 15, 1944, and November 15, 1947, and a further 62 were missing.

The fusion of these two armies, which have been separate and distinct for 150 years, is a first aim of the War Ministry, the Dutch Parliament was told.

Reports that the U.S. Navy transport Renville, scene of the current Dutch-Indonesian negotiations, would stay only two months in Indonesian waters were denied last night by her captain, Captain D. M. Tyce, The Netherlands News Agency reported.

The Renville would stay for "an indefinite period," Captain Tyce said.—Reuter.

BRITISH WOMEN FLOCK TO WORK

London, Dec. 16.—Fifty thousand women took jobs in the first month of the control of engagement order—against 2,000 in previous months. And 10,000 workers left hotels, entertainment and sport to take more essential jobs.

Mr. George Isaacs, Labour Minister, announced these results of the order, which came into force on October 6.

Only ten men were directed but nearly 20,000 men and women who had never worked signed for jobs. More than 321,000 people were placed in new jobs. The net expansion of employment during October was 65,000—double the recent average. This included 10,000 foreign workers.—Reuter.

CHINA EAGER TO SEE HER PEACE MOVE ADOPTED

Washington, Dec. 16.—Chinese Ambassador Dr. Wellington Koo told newsmen today that China is pressing for acceptance by other Big Four powers of China's compromise proposal for inaugurating the Japanese peace conference.

Koo's statement, followed a conference with Assistant Secretary of State Norman Armour.

China's proposal for a Pacific conference is that 11 Allies write the treaty but the Big Four, the Pacific retain their veto power. The United States and Britain are opposed to the veto.—Associated Press.

China Not On List

Washington, Dec. 16.—The Chinese Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Wellington Koo, today paid an 80-minute call on the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Norman Armour, for discussion of stop-gap aid to China and the Japanese peace conference.

Dr. Koo later told reporters his country was grateful for being included in stop-gap aid.

"I hope aid to China will not stop merely with stop-gap aid," he said.

The Ambassador's remarks were made before he learned that the House Appropriations Committee had deleted China from the list of recipients of emergency aid. However,

China Trade Regulations Criticised

Shanghai, Dec. 17.—Overseas Chinese businessmen are most anxious to see the revision of existing foreign exchange regulations by the National Government.

Mr. Albert Lee, a prominent Chinese business magnate from Boston told the China Press.

Mr. Lee is the first Chinese member of an American businessmen's trade survey group to visit postwar Japan. He is leaving China before going on to Japan.

Mr. Lee said that although Overseas Chinese in the United States and South America have great potential power as far as commerce is concerned, their activities are very restricted because of the lack of co-ordination.

Many Overseas Chinese wish to establish factories in China with their own capital, employing administrative and technical personnel in order to export China's native products to foreign countries.

Hand-Made Articles

He said Americans like Chinese hand-made articles, and it is for the Chinese to supply them. However, under the present exchange regulations, not only are exports practically impossible but remittances from Overseas Chinese to the home country are discouraged.

Mr. Lee said that many Overseas Chinese want to help their country and Government as much as they can, but they would lose tremendously if they tried to export goods from China or back foreign exchange under the existing regulations.

His own firm, the Albert Lee Company of Boston, for instance, had to put up a factory in Hongkong to manufacture goods for export to the United States as he could not do it in China.

Regarding trade with Japan, Mr. Lee said that attention should be paid in a two-way trade with Japan and not merely to the importation of Japanese goods.—Reuter.

FILM TO AID PARCELS FUND

"Colonel Blimp," specially selected by the Ladies' Committee of the "Food Parcels for Britain Fund" as the best British picture yet screened in Hongkong, will be given a special showing at the China Film Club tonight at 8 o'clock, the proceeds to be donated to the parcels for Britain fund.

Admission will be \$5 and \$3. The film has been kindly loaned by Eagle-Lion Distributors.

Family Christmas For BAOR

London, Dec. 16.—Soldiers serving in the Rhine Army will have a "family" Christmas this year under a War Office scheme to send 727 children to the British Army of the Occupation of the Rhine and Austria.

Children have been at school while their parents were living in Germany. They are aged between six and 18. Those whose fathers have years of further service in the Rhine Army and who have not been out before will have their return fares paid by the Government.

Children who do not come within this category will have their fares paid by their fathers.—Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers

1. A Greek mathematician who lived in the third century. His elements of geometry have become classic. 2. It runs between 101 and 102 degrees. 3. In California. 4. Guatemala. 5. It is the bark which grows on the cork oak after the original bark has been stripped off. 6. Of or pertaining to—bishops or governed by bishops.

ever, there is a possibility that the House will overrule the Committee and restore the China aid provision.

Dr. Koo said his conversation with Mr. Armour left him with the impression that the United States had not completed all details of the long-range plan for aid to China, which the Secretary of State, Gen. George Marshall, has told Congressmen probably would approximate US-\$300,000,000.

Still Hopeful

Dr. Koo said China was still hoping Russia and the United States would agree to the Chinese compromise proposal for the Japanese peace conference to be held by all nations in the Far Eastern Commission, with Big Four veto applying to decisions.

He said the United States had not yet replied to this suggestion, nor had Russia responded to a suggestion along this line sent recently by China.

He confirmed reports that China was negotiating for the purchase of transport planes from the United States, but declined to reveal details. Other sources have said the Chinese seek about 150 planes. Dr. Koo, however, said negotiations were still "only preliminary," and he did not want to say any more.

His discussion with Mr. Armour, on the matter of stop-gap aid, Dr. Koo continued, was "purely for purposes of clarification."

Returning to the question of the Japanese peace conference, Dr. Koo said that if the Chinese were unable to secure Soviet-American acceptance of their compromise plan for conference procedure, then we would have to reconsider our position very carefully.

Major Implication

Asked whether China, in such an event, would acquiesce in the American proposal for a conference attended by all nations who took part in the war against Japan and with decisions by a two-thirds majority and no veto, Dr. Koo said it would be necessary to consider the "implications" of such a decision.

He added that the major implication would be the possibility of Soviet boycott of the conference under that procedure. He said China must weigh the decision very carefully "because we live right out there with them."—United Press.

China Buys Cargo Planes

Washington, Dec. 16.—China has completed a bargain purchase of 150 American cargo planes, the U.S. War Assets Administration said today.

The planes originally cost about US\$300,000 each. China bought them for US\$55,000 apiece.

They are C-40 Curtiss Commando cargo planes. At present they are stored at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. The Chinese are undertaking to condition them there at an estimated cost of US\$4,000 each.

Formal delivery is set for about January 1. It is understood China will hire American pilots to fly the aircraft to Shanghai.

The War Assets Administration said the planes were being sold at a financial sacrifice because they are not suitable for American commercial purposes.

The planes are no stranger in China. Many of them operated over the Hump flying cargo from India to China during the war. It is understood the Chinese have acquired additional planes from the Foreign Liquidation Commission.

Each plane has a cargo space of 2,600 feet, will carry 17,000 pounds and has an operational range of 1,600 miles.—Associated Press.

New Flying Wing's First Flight

Rugby, Dec. 16.—Acclaimed as the most advanced type of research aircraft in the world, the Armstrong-Whitworth jet-propelled flying wing made its first flight in public from an airfield near here today.

The highly polished plane is powered by two Rolls-Royce engines, has a wing span of 90 feet, fully laden take-off weight of 33,000 pounds and cost £220,000 to produce.—Reuter.

TRADE UNIONS IN SINGAPORE

London, Dec. 16.—The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, is shortly sending a mission of trade unionists to Singapore and the Malayan Union to investigate the local trade union movement.

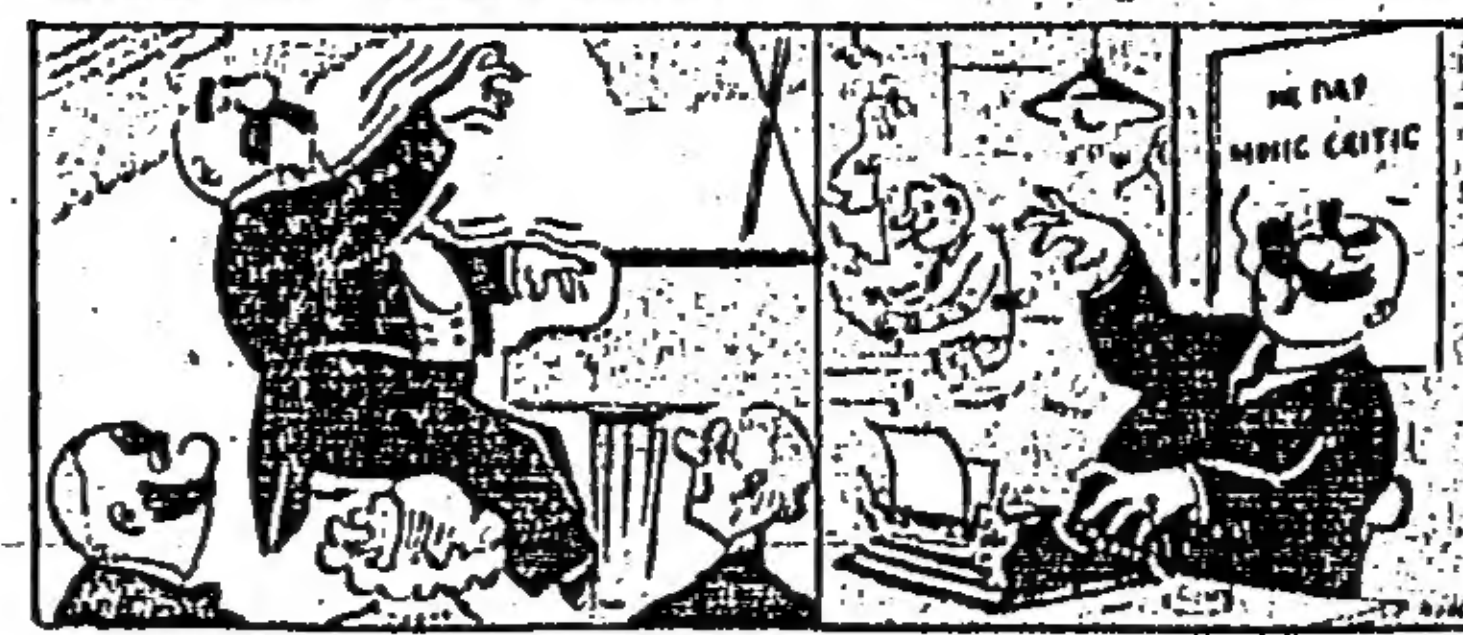
Mr. Creech Jones made this known after he had received a report from the Governors which, he said, showed that the position was "clearly quite unsatisfactory."

In a letter to Mr. J. Henderson Stewart, Liberal National Member of Parliament, who questioned him on the subject in the House of Commons, Mr. Creech Jones said that a report that certain trade unions, described as under the control of the Communist Party, "as was amply demonstrated at the time of the anti-Government demonstrations on February 15, 1946," will be gone into.—Reuter.

Truman Message

Washington, Dec. 16.—President Truman will send his message to the Marshall plan for aid to Europe to Congress on either Thursday or Friday this week, the White House announced tonight.—Reuter.

DAB & FLOUNDER . . . by WALTER



Western Powers Charged With Recruiting Nazis

London, Dec. 16.—Charges that the British and American authorities were recruiting German Nazis for service abroad, particularly in South Africa and Indonesia, were made today by the Moscow Radio, quoting a report from Berlin by M. Yuri Korolkov, correspondent of Pravda.

FU TSO-YI STUDIES FOR OFFENSIVE

Tientsin, Dec. 17.—General Fu Tso-yi, Commander-in-Chief of North China, arrived here yesterday evening from Peiping in a special train escorted by an armoured pilot train, in continuation of an inspection tour which commenced upon his assumption of office on December 2.

At a press conference later, General Fu stressed the importance of concerted military action against Chinese Reds in North China and Manchuria, but pointed out that no decision had yet been reached concerning the possible creation of a joint operations headquarters for Hsiao, Chahar and Liaoning provinces.

While reiterating the necessity of taking the military initiative during a Communist suppression campaign, General Fu Tso-yi emphasised the need for studying local conditions before deciding the future course for military action in Peiping, Tientsin and Peking.

Another important point of his statement was that the strength of the Communists in the five provinces under his command—Hsiao, Jehol, Chahar, Suiyuan and Shansi—did not reach any alarming proportions though they are scattered over numerous localities.

He explained that he was studying the requirements of various localities in military and other fields before starting of the forthcoming campaign.—Reuter.

Ian Hamilton's Bequests

London, Dec. 16.—General Sir Ian Hamilton's will was published today. The bequests told the history of a gallant soldier who spent 75 years in the service of his country.

For Winston Churchill there was a black Buddha saved from a deserted temple at Mandalay. Hamilton's nephew received a lock of hair from Mary, Queen of Scots, and a broad sword presented to the general by an emperor of Japan.

Hamilton died last October at the age of 84. His death came only a few weeks after the people of Inverness had granted him the Freedom of the Borough.

His will disposed of some US\$392,000 in a few brisk sentences. Most of it went to his nieces and nephews.

His sentimental phrases were saved for treasured souvenirs he had gathered during five war and three campaigns.

The general's nephew received a Japanese sword which was presented to Hamilton to remind him that he was the only European in the "starvation march" of 50,000 Japanese during the Manchurian War in 1904. There was also a carpet from the King of Serbia, a gold box from the King of Rumania, and a centre piece of porcelaine from the German Kaiser.

United Press.

ESSEX REGIMENT ARRIVES HOME

Southampton, Dec. 16.—The transport Taos Victory, which reached here from Venice this morning, had on board 479 men of the 2nd Battalion of the Essex Regiment, the last British troops to leave Italy, where they had served for 15 months.

The Essex Regimental band played on the quay as the ship docked and the Battalion was welcomed home by Brigadier G. H. Wilmer, Colonel of the Regiment.

In a letter to Mr. J. Henderson Stewart, Liberal National Member of Parliament, who questioned him on the subject in the House of Commons, Mr. Creech Jones said that a report that certain trade unions, described as under the control of the Communist Party, "as was amply demonstrated at the time of the anti-Government demonstrations on February 15, 1946," will be gone into.—Reuter.

AIR CRASH NEAR WEISBADEN

Wienbaden, Dec. 16.—The American C-45 aeroplane missing from the United States Zone since yesterday was found crashed today about 25 miles south of Weisbaden.

Two of the occupants, believed to be American army lieutenants, were reported killed.—Reuter.

Colonial Move Objection

Lake Success, Dec. 16.—Australia's disclosure to the Trusteeship Council that it planned a permanent union of its trust territory of New Guinea and the adjacent colony of Papua to-day drew a "categorical objection" from China's Dr. Liu Chieh that "this change does not constitute a step forward."

The United States representative, Benjamin Gerig, also objected to the move.

W. D. Forsyth (Australia), who announced that his Government was preparing legislation to provide a constitution for the combined territories provisionally united since 1945 and to establish a permanent single administrative head, replied that the combined service was necessary as a result of wartime devastation.

The Council postponed final action on the question until the February meeting.—United Press.

BILLY FOX TO MEET LESNEVICH AGAIN

New York, Dec. 16.—Billy Fox, 21-year-old Philadelphia Negro, will meet the world cruiserweight champion, Gus Lesnevich, in a return bout at Madison Square Garden here on March 5, according to an announcement by Fox's manager.

He said that contracts for the bout would be signed on Thursday.

When the two fighters met last February, Lesnevich won on a knockout in the tenth round, but the young Negro has emerged a knockout winner in all his fights since then.

Lesnevich, who is 32, has been mentioned as possible next opponent to Joe Louis, world heavyweight champion.—Reuter.

Fight Postponed

New York, Dec. 16.—World lightweight champion Ike Williams says he does not want to train during the Christmas holidays, so his bout with challenger Bob Montgomery of Philadelphia has been put off a month.

The title scrap, originally set for January 16 in Madison Square Garden, will be held on February 20 instead.

Williams won the 135 pound crown by knocking out Montgomery in Philadelphia last August.—Associated Press.

Dazed Mexican

New York, Dec. 16.—Mexican Nava Espanza was so dazed by his two-punch 20-second knockout on Monday night that he thought he was a handier and not a fighter.

After being helped out of the ring he seized his own water bucket and climbed back into the ring with it to await the next fighter.

Espanza lost his bout to Rocco Rosano of Brooklyn in 20 seconds of the first round, the quickest event K.O. in the history of St. Nicholas arena.—United Press.

Big Four Breakdown Hits United Nations

Lake Success, Dec. 16.—Top United Nations diplomats today view the breakdown of the Big Four Foreign Ministers conference as a setback for the young and strife-weakened United Nations.

The diplomats maintain that the world organisation cannot really function until the Great Powers settle peace and put their signatures on the German and Japanese treaties.

United Nations observers point to the futility of debating important issues like selection of the Governor of Trieste, or international atomic energy control, or warfare in Indonesia, so long as the Russians and Americans and British or the French feel compelled to use such issues in their bigger battle over peace treaties.

Discussions of that sort are to resume this week. The Security Council is to discuss this afternoon the Indonesian question, the Big Five veto and procedure for inspecting trusteeship territories.

Rivalries and animosities which have blocked settlement of such questions in the past have been described almost unanimously by United Nations officials to bigger disagreement over European and Pacific peace settlements. The London failure even heightens the scepticism in some circles about apparent American-Russian harmony on Palestine, that made possible the General decision to divide the Holy Land between Jews and Arabs.—United Press.

STRIKE CALL IN SICILY

Rome, Dec. 16.—The Provincial Chamber of Labour at Catania, Sicily, has declared a general strike effective at midnight tonight in a demand for unemployment relief.

The strike appears to be modelled after the general strike in Rome last week, which was called off after two days with Communists and the government disputing as to who had won.

The four Christian Democrats in the Catania Chamber voted against the strike, which calls on all workers except those in "essential services" such as bakers, hospital employees, railway workers, public utilities personnel, communications workers and dock workers unloading food ships.

There are indications that government employees will not obey the call. Catania is a city of 244,000.

Employees of the Genoa Chamber of Commerce, and some employees of the stock exchange and commercial exchanges, also struck for 36 hours in protest against a Ministry of Industry's appointment of an official.

Premier Alcide de Gasperi went before the Constituent Assembly today to speak on behalf of his new Cabinet, which now includes Moderate Labour Socialists, Republicans and Independents, as well as his own Christian Democrats.—Associated Press.

Ocean Test With Beer Bottles

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 16.—A Trans-Ocean Airlines DC-4 is scheduled to take off tomorrow from Oakland airport with 100 beer bottles, to be dropped into the Pacific between Oakland and Okinawa to test the durability of bottles and movement of ocean currents.

The bottles, in groups of five, will be dropped from an average altitude of 9,000 feet, with six drops planned between San Francisco and Honolulu, six between Honolulu and Wake Island and four each between Wake and Guam and Guam and Okinawa.

Each sealed bottle will contain instructions in English and seven other languages for sending it back to the manufacturer, the owner of an Illinois glass company.—United Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. Mail close before 10 a.m. registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. on previous day.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Closing Times By Air

Manila, P. I. 3.30 p.m.

Canton, Luchow, Kuning, Tahan, Amoy, Shanghai, Ningbo, Hankow, Tientsin and Peiping 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times By Sea & Train

Batavia, Sourabaya & Macassar (Sea) 3 p.m.

Manila (Sea) 1 p.m.

Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 1 p.m.

Swatow and Hongkong (Sea) 1 p.m.

Canton (Train) 3 p.m.

Manila, Hongkong, U.S.A., Canada, Central & South America via San Francisco (No parcels for Canada) (Sea) 3 p.m.

Hankow (Sea) 3 p.m.

Formosa via Keelung (Sea) 3 p.m.

Macao, Tainan, Shekhi, Kungmoon (Sea) 4 p.m.

Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Closing Times By Air

Shanghai 3.30 p.m.

Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland 3.30 p.m.

Shanghai, Hankow, Ningbo, Tientsin and Peiping 3.30 p.m.

Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Kweilin 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times By Sea & Train

Canton (Train) 7 a.m.

Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.

Amoy (Sea) 10 a.m.

Strait and Malacca (Sea) 10 a.m.

Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 1 p.m.

Canton (Train) 3 p.m.

Strait, Madras and Bombay (Sea) 3 p.m.

Macao, Tainan, Shekhi & Kungmoon (Sea) 4 p.m.

Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

TO-DAY'S BROADCAST

H.K.T.

6.30—Studio: Children's Half Hour; 6.30—Studio: Anniversary Half Hour Presented by Monica Jinks; 7.00—London Relay: World Organisation; 7.15—World News; 7.30—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 7.45—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 8.00—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 8.15—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 8.30—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 8.45—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 9.00—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 9.15—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 9.30—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 9.45—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 10.00—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 10.15—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 10.30—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 10.45—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 11.00—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 11.15—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 11.30—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 11.45—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 12.00—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 12.15—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 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11.30—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 11.45—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 12.00—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 12.15—Studio: "I Bring You Music" Classical; 12.30—Studio: "